Technology mission on oilseeds

1855. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Technology Mission on oilseeds was launched in 1986;

(b) if so, what were the main objectives, and specific targets and the time schedule specified under the Technology Mission;

(c) what was the organisational structure which was set up for achieving the targets within the specific schedule and who were the officers who were given direct responsibility for implementing the same;

(d) what was the actual achievement of the Mission at the end of the year 1990-91;

(e) whether the Technology Mission still functioning as such as per the original organisational structure; and

(f) if so, in what manner Government propose to strengthen the Technology Mission and achieve the objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The immediate objective was to produce 16.5 million tonnes of oilseeds in 1989-90, which could cut down imports. The long term objective is to reach a production level of 26 million tonnes by 2000 AD which would meet the entire requirements of the country.

(c) The Mission acted as a task force policy formulation and coordination rather than direct implementation. The Mission was headed by the Director, Technology Mission on Oilseeds, a senior officer of the Government of India who was assisted by other officers and staff.

(d) The production of oilseeds in 1990-91 reached level of 19.10 million tonnes as compared to 10.93 million tonnes in 1985-86 an increase of approximately 75 percent in production.

(e) No, Sir. Some additional staff has been provided to the Mission due to inclusion of oil palm and pulses among the responsibilities of the Mission.

(f) In view of (e) above, the question does not arise.

Crops affected due to drought and floods

1856. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the crops affected due to drought and floods in different parts of the country in recent months, and the relief provided to the farmers so far; and

(b) whether Government propose to import any foodgrains as a result thereof to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per reports received from State Governments about 18.93 lakh hec. of cropped area have been affected by heavy rains and floods during the current monsoon.

Dry spells during the current monsoon have resulted in a decline in the area sown and transplanted in respect of the following major kharif crops, till date, as given below:—

Rice	4·14%
Maize	20·98%
Bajra	11.62%
Pulses	15·65%

Under the present system of financing the relief expenditure in the wake of natural calamities, the State Governments are required to undertake necessary relief